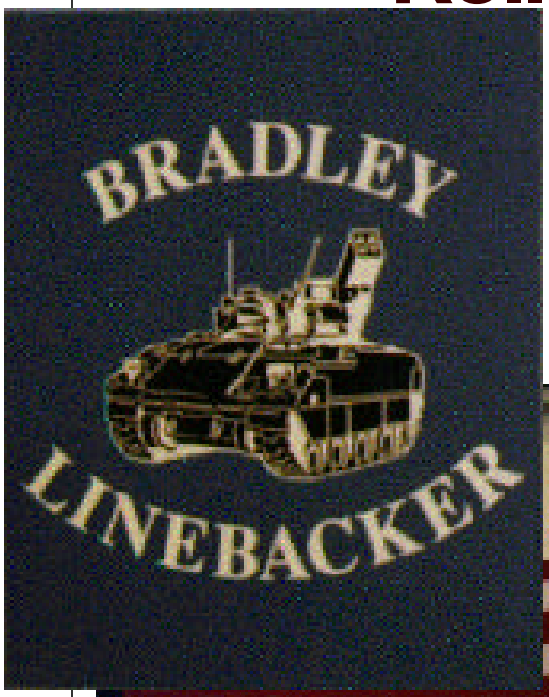
# ADA DIGEST

ADA WEAPONS

## First Production Rollout



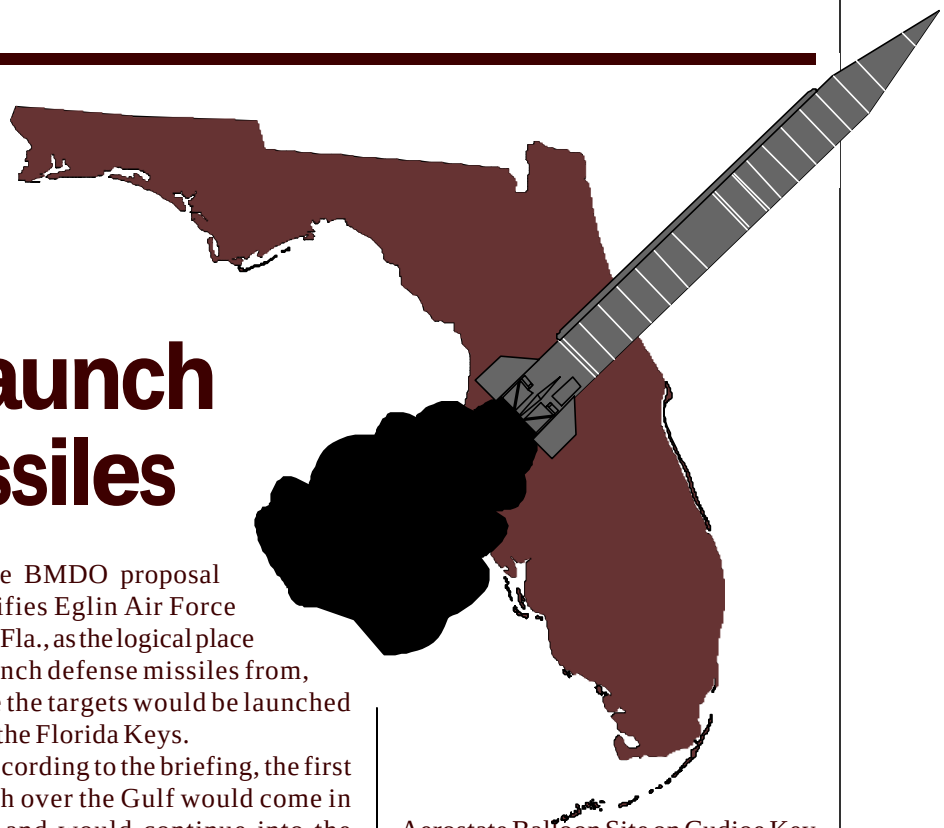

Less than one year after the contract award, an Army/Boeing team celebrated the March 1996 first production Bradley Linebacker at the Boeing Huntsville manufacturing facility. The Linebacker is one of the first contracts under the Army's Rapid Acquisition Program. The contract award to Boeing occurred within 60 days of issuing the request for proposal.

The Linebacker, the enhanced version of the Bradley Stinger Fighting Vehicle, sports a standard vehicle mounted launcher with four fire-and-forget Stinger missiles, a 25mm gun, and communications equipment with the capabilities to acquire targets and shoot on the move.

"We have a system that moves, shoots and survives in the hostile forward area," said Col. Allen M. McDavid Jr., U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command System Manager for Forward Area Air Defense. "The Linebacker brings to the battlefield the capability to defeat the threats of today, and to grow to counter the threats of tomorrow."

—BOEING

The first trained four-man crew of the first production Linebacker, all with B/2-6 ADA, Fort Bliss, Texas (left to right): SSgt. Marvin Stallworth, commander; Pvt. Larry Shelton, gunner; Pvt. Bruce Butler, assistant gunner; and Pvt. Lane Meredith, driver.



# Florida to Launch Ballistic Missiles

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization (BMDO) is eyeing the vast expanse of the Gulf of Mexico as a possible area to test theater missile defense (TMD) systems, according to government officials and documents.

The Department of Defense has several missile test sites in the continental United States and offshore. But as missile defense systems are developed to blanket larger areas, these sites have proven inadequate.

For example, a safety mechanism had to be used to destroy a target missile in a recent test of the Army's Theater High-Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system because the rocket came dangerously close to the edge of the White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. THAAD program officials now use a different target with a trajectory that simulates the re-entry characteristics of a ballistic missile fired from a much longer range than White Sands can accommodate using conventional methods.

BMDO officials believe that by using the Gulf of Mexico, from the Florida Panhandle to the Florida Keys, they could solve their space problems. According to a briefing on such a proposal, the Gulf would offer a test site with a range of up to 800 kilometers. White Sands has a 300-kilometer range.

The BMDO proposal identifies Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., as the logical place to launch defense missiles from, while the targets would be launched from the Florida Keys.

According to the briefing, the first launch over the Gulf would come in 1999 and would continue into the next century. The maximum number of launches per year would be 24.

The Naval Radio Transmission Facility on Saddlebunch Key and the Aerostate Balloon Site on Cudjoe Key have been identified as possible target launch sites.

REDSTONE ARSENAL

# Aerostat Lives!

**After years of study, the U.S. military is moving forward with its plan to field helium-filled balloons to support cruise missile defense (see "Army Mountain Top Experiment," *ADA* magazine, May-June 1996). A U.S. Army-led joint program office that will supervise Aerostat applications to the future battlefield opened in March.**

**Funding for the new Joint Aerostat Project Management Office for Cruise Missile Defense is planned to begin in 1997 with $15 million. The massive, floating balloons, stocked with radars, advanced sensors and fire control systems, will be part of a complex air defense system to combat low-flying enemy missiles.**

**Pentagon officials hope to use Aerostats to support future theater ballistic missile defense efforts, tying into programs such as Patriot Advanced Capabilities-3. Aerostats may also support U.S. military systems aimed at destroying tactical ballistic missiles in their boost phase.**

*DEFENSE NEWS*

# Joint UAV Structure Underway

With high-level support cemented, the Pentagon is working to tie together the military services' unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) systems so the information they collect reaches a wider audience, according to UAV officials.

The hope is to introduce, in about two years, common control stations that will enable the services to download each other's tactical imagery and control each other's aircraft when required, the officials said.

The effort to integrate the ground control modules of DoD's current and future fleet of unmanned reconnaissance platforms is being pursued by the UAV Joint Program Office, the Defense Airborne Reconnaissance Office and the services, under the direction of Pentagon leaders.

The associated organizations have begun to define concepts of operation and the protocols reuqired to introduce an interconnected UAV fleet and hope to quickly determine the cost of the software integration effort.

"The notion is to provide users the integrated capability to have control over all tactical UAVs," explained Navy Capt. Alan Rutherford, the program manager for the medium-range Predator UAV. The common control station effort will enable a UAV controlled at sea by the Navy to be "handed off" to a soldier on the ground, who would then control it for his own tactical needs.

Demonstrations of the integrated UAV fleet should begin in about six months.

REDSTONE ARSENAL

COMBAT TRAINING CENTERS

# NTC Trends

The weather's heating up here at the National Training Center, and so are our ADA units: they are ready to fight and win! Observer-controllers have noted continued improvement in the quality of home-station training. We have seen tremendous growth in the abilities of our brigade liaison officers to integrate into the brigade combat team's planning process and develop effective, lethal air defense plans. Improving the development of plans that tie the battery's assets together ensures there are no gaps in the coverage for the brigade combat team as a whole. Platoon leaders further develop these plans into the fight at the task force level. Our squad leaders and section and team chiefs, who aggressively execute the plans, are destroying record numbers of enemy aircraft! As with any organization, however, there's always room for improvement.

One problem observer-controllers continue to observe is the inability of ADA squad leaders and team chiefs to select effective fire unit positions, positions that allow them to fulfill the commander's intent. The first breakdown occurs because neither the platoon order nor the rehearsals include an explanation of how each member fits into the overall battery plan. Therefore, leaders are not sure what is expected of them. Also, squad leaders and team chiefs do not analyze the effects terrain has on the ability of a particular weapon system to accomplish its piece of the fight.

For example, a squad is often tasked to secure the line of departure and nullify the effects of enemy air upon units that are crossing that line. This is a common mission that, because of our site selection process, really never gets accomplished. Squad leaders will choose a position that does not allow them to effectively see the air avenue of approach into the line of departure far enough forward to kill the aircraft prior to ordnance release. In most cases, a 50- to 100-meter move in any direction would allow the squad to accomplish this critical mission. Units can easily correct this problem by ensuring that squad leaders and team chiefs understand their purpose, their mission, and how they fit into the overall fight.

MAJ. TODD MORROW

# 1-203 Patriot on Guard

Huntsville, Ala., is home to the National Guard's first Patriot missile battalion, the 1st Battalion, 203rd Air Defense Artillery, activated Sept. 3, 1995. This battalion draws its lineage and honors from the 203rd Artillery, which consisted of antiaircraft artillery and howitzer battalions during the 1940s and 1950s. In October 1992, 1-203 ADA organized under a carrier unit identification code (UIC), enabling the unit to begin recruiting soldiers. Today, the battalion consists of headquarters and headquarters battery and four firing batteries. The 2117th Direct Support Maintenance Company and the 1117th Direct Support Ordnance Team support the unit.

Since October 1992, the battalion's strength (including the support units) has grown from three soldiers to 487 soldiers. The active component drawdown has helped the National Guard recruit and retain many highly qualified, experienced soldiers. Their experience is one of the battalion's key assets as it strives to achieve its training readiness objectives. The battalion has also recruited a number of highly skilled soldiers from U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard units.

The Alabama State Military Department and Redstone Arsenal coordinated the development of a Patriot training site similar to those in Germany. The Alabama National Guard contracted the construction of three buildings (a battery-ready building, a battalion-ready building and a multipurpose training building), and future plans will add three battery-ready buildings and a maintenance facility.

1-203 ADA received its equipment under the Army's total package fielding concept, executed through the combined efforts of the Patriot Project Office and the Alabama Army National Guard. These two organizations conquered the challenge of planning and coordinating for the equipment shipments to arrive in battery configurations; meanwhile, 1-203 ADA soldiers planned for each battery's annual training period to coincide with the arrival of battery equipment sets. This allowed each battery to conduct technical inspections and complete inventories of their equipment during their annual training.

B/1-203 at battalion activation ceremony.

The battalion uses all available means to train and qualify soldiers: active and reserve component schools and exportable training packages. For example, the ADA Training Activity, located at Fort Bliss, Texas, has conducted four MOS 16T exportable training courses at 1-203 ADA's armory. The activity consists of New Mexico guardsmen who travel to the battalion once a month to conduct the course, which requires eight inactive duty training weekends and a two-week annual training period. These exportable training packages have proven to be a very successful means of enabling soldiers to attain MOS qualification.

1-203 ADA is focusing on crew training for Patriot Gunnery Tables I-IV. In 1998, the battalion plans to undergo an operational readiness certification. Upon certification, 1-203 will be a viable mobilization asset to the Army and the total force team!

LT. COL. JOE L. HARKEY

Top to bottom: 1-203 ADA soldiers undergo MOS 16T exportable training course. 1-203 ADA soldiers offload a Patriot launching station.